Budget for Universalization of Education

1768. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the department of expenditure has decided to slash down Rs.800 crores from the budget 2002-2003 which was meant for universalization of education programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the proposal of Government to continue the programe?

THE MINISTEROF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (c) No, Sir. As against a cut of Rs.800 crore imposed by the Finance Ministry in Budget Estimates (2000-2003), they had earlier restored Rs.200 crore and now have agreed to restore further Rs.210 crore. In case there are any savings in the overall budget, some more money for this purpose may be allocated around 30th March, 2003 so that commitment for Universalization of Elementary Education and obligation now under taken under the 86th Constitution Amendment Act, could be fulfilled.

Degrees from Foreign Universities

1769. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of students in our country are acquiring degrees of foreign universities through private institutions with tie-up arrangements;

(b) whether Government are treating such degrees at par with degrees obtained on the original campus;

(c) if not, what will be the status of those degrees and the future of the students; and

(d) has Government evolved any guidelines on this increasing educational trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) According to the information compiled by the Association

of Indian Universities (AIU) on the basis of advertisements appearing in the Indian newspapers, 144 foreign universities/colleges/institutions are offering various courses of study to the Indian students, out of which 27 are conducting programmes in India through their Indian partners.

(b) and (c) The degrees awarded by foreign universities are not automatically at par with the degrees awarded by the Indian universities. The work relating to recognition and equivalence of degrees awarded by the universities in India and abroad is dealt with by AIU which issues Equivalence Certificates to the students who have obtained foreign degrees.

(d) No, Sir. However, with the twin objectives of promoting Indian education abroad and regulating operations of foreign educational institutions in India the Government has recently constituted a committee called 'Committee for Promotion of Indian Education Abroad'.

Dual Degree System

1770. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether University Grant Commission has conceived a plan of dual degree system for the students studying in some universities in different parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether some colleges affiliated to these universities have been selected for offering industry oriented courses alongwith the general studies; and

(d) if so, the list of the colleges so selected and the basis of their selection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), it has initiated the process to introduce a number of skill-oriented and value-added add-on courses in